

control. With that, I would just urge and tell the American people I am positive and optimistic that we will have a balanced budget and all of us, including the next generation and especially the next generation, will be better off for it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SPEAKER AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH PRESIDENT AND END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, the President reached an agreement with the Republican leadership last night, both to begin intensive discussions about how to balance the budget on a rapid timetable and also that the Congress would pass a continuing resolution today to reopen the Government. Evidently, the extreme elements of the House Republicans have rejected this agreement and prevented the Government from reopening today.

Mr. Speaker, the President is committed to balancing the budget in 7 years and doing so in a way that reflects our values and also our priorities: health care, education, the environment, tax fairness. He is prepared to talk with the Republican leaders today, tomorrow, the next day, as long as is necessary to get the job done.

But Congress in the meantime should reopen the Federal Government. We cannot achieve this important goal through threats and ultimatums. The Republicans in Congress have threatened to keep the Government shut down unless the President agrees to deep and unconscionable cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. The President will never give in to these kinds of threats, nor should he.

Mr. Speaker, this country has a responsibility not only to balance the budget, but also to protect our values and our interests as people. We must act in the interest of the 3.3 million veterans who will not receive their benefits checks due December 29 unless the Congress passes a continuing resolution by tomorrow morning.

Our first obligation must be to these people, not to confrontational tactics or extreme agendas. Let me last say this. I believe that if this cannot move forward today, we are in a constitutional crisis. This is the first time in memory that the Speaker of the House and a majority in the House has said that the President's veto, being an extraordinary power, must be met on the side of the majority in Congress if they

disagree with that veto, not with a two-thirds majority to override the veto, not with another bill that might gain the President's signature, but with shutting the Government down.

Mr. Speaker, there is no language in the Constitution that says that is what the majority in Congress should do if they are displeased with the veto. The Constitution says we override the veto or we pass another bill that the President may or may not sign.

It is irresponsible, it is unconscionable, it is immoral to have taxpayers' money to pay for services and then to say we are not going to give those services to people or, in the case of veterans, their checks for their pension, because we are in a pique with the President with his priorities on the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe this is happening to our country. In the name of sense, in the name of morality, in the name of logic, in the name of decency, I ask the Republican majority and the Speaker of this House to come to this floor today to pass a continuing resolution, to open this Government back up and to get in a room with the President of the United States and the other leaders in Congress and try to see as hard as we can if we can find a budget for this country for the next year, if not 7 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Leader is obviously here, as are many Democrats, ready to work this afternoon. I am advised that unless this Congress, which went into a kind of recess at 2 o'clock eastern time today, unless by 8 o'clock in the morning it has approved a continuing resolution, thousands of veterans in Austin, TX, and I believe you said 3.3 million across the country, people that have served our country, who have put their lives on the line, many of them disabled veterans, will not get their checks on time if that resolution is not passed within just a matter of hours.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] know of any reason why those veterans should be asked to sacrifice and should be caught in the middle of all the crisis that is going on here in Washington?

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, there is absolutely no justification for it. It is immoral. It is immoral to say that they will not get their benefits because there is a disagreement between the Congress and the President on a budget. That is not the adult way, the sensible way to handle this disagreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BARTLETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UNNECESSARILY INCONVENIENCES CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow on the remarks of our distinguished minority leader here. This is a serious moment for our country. Our congressional office has now been in receipt of phone calls from constituents who are not able to get their passports processed because of the shutdown of the Government. So, in addition to veterans, whose checks are being threatened at this point because this Congress and this Speaker chooses not to move legislation through this body that will keep the various agencies operating, and not inconveniencing the public during this very busy travel season, it is truly a tragedy what is happening here just to make some sort of political point.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for people here to grow up or get out, and to deliver the kind of services to the American public that they expect of us. We have thousands of families across this country who have filed for home mortgages that have a relationship to HUD where they insure and process those mortgages. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 of those a month cannot be processed because of this Government shutdown.

We are inconveniencing the American people from coast to coast. We have tourists all around this country that cannot get into the monuments. Think of when in recent history my colleagues ever remember this happening. This does not need to happen, especially during this very important season of the year when so many people are traveling and expecting the goodwill that this season represents to govern our actions toward others.

YES! TOLEDO WINS IN OVERTIME

Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor this afternoon on a little bit lighter subject, and I would like to say that my good colleague from the State of Nevada has elected not to join me here this afternoon, but I am compelled to rise to tell my colleagues that if they happened to miss the first college bowl game of the 1995 season, they may have missed the best, most historic bowl game of the year.

Mr. Speaker, in the Las Vegas Bowl, the still undefeated University of Toledo Rockets beat the University of Nevada Wolf Pack 40 to 37 in the first overtime game in the history of post-season college football.

It was a close game, as evidenced by the 34 to 34 fourth quarter score sparkling with flashes of offensive brilliance on both sides. But in overtime, Reno's Wolf Pack defense could not withstand the onslaught of Rocket star Wasean Tate's powerful running game.